

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 are currently pending in the subject application. By the instant amendment, claim 1 is amended and claims 21-30 are added. In particular, claims 2, 5 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form as claims 24, 29 and 30, respectively. No new matter is introduced by this amendment. Claims 1, 24, 29 and 30 are independent.

Applicant requests, in the next Office action, that Examiner indicate the acceptability of the drawings filed on February 13, 2002, and June 10, 2002.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 2-6 continue to be allowable.

Claims 1-6 and 21-30 are presented to the Examiner for further or initial prosecution on the merits.

A. Introduction

In the outstanding Office Action Made Final, mailed March 30, 2005, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kohl et al., "Wafer-Level Packaging Addresses Chip-to-Module Interconnections," Electronic Packaging & Production, April, 2001, (hereinafter "the EP&P reference"), in view of Kohl et al., "Air-Gaps for Electrical Interconnections," Electrochemical and Solid-State Letters 1(1) 49-51 (1998) (hereinafter "the ESL reference"), and objected to claims 2-6 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated claims 2-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

B. Applicant Initiated Interview Summary

1. Brief Description of any Exhibit Shown

No exhibit was shown or demonstrated during the interview of June 21, 2005.

2. Identification of the Claims Discussed

The Examiner and applicant's representative discussed independent claim 1.

3. Identification of the Specific Prior Art Discussed

The Examiner and applicant's representative discussed two references to Kohl, viz., the EP&P reference and the ESL reference.

4. Identification of the Proposed Amendments

No amendments were proposed to claim 1. New dependent claims were proposed, however the Examiner indicated the new claims would not be entered.

5. Summary of the Arguments Presented to the Examiner

Applicant's representative presented arguments regarding the failure of the Kohl references to disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in independent claim 1. Generally, applicant's representative argued that the proposed combination of the Kohl references would be an unworkable combination, and thus the Examiner failed to set forth a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

6. General Indication of Other Pertinent Matters Discussed

Applicant's representative argued that, under MPEP § 2144, the Examiner is required to set forth a combination of references that would not be unworkable, i.e., the proposed combination of references cannot render the prior art unsatisfactory for its intended purpose. In particular, with regards to the device disclosed in FIG. 1 of the EP&P reference, applicant's representative argued that the Examiner's suggestion that the elastomeric material could be eliminated from beneath the metal lead is unworkable because the elastomeric material must remain in order to fabricate the device.

Accordingly, the Examiner's proposed modification of the prior art would be unworkable.

7. General Outcome of the Interview

No agreement between the Examiner and applicant's representative was reached.

C. Asserted Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the outstanding Office Action Made Final, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the EP&P reference in view of the ESL reference. By the instant amendment, claim 1 has been amended to recite, in part, "wherein a perimeter of the conductive pad directly overlies both regions of the air space formed in the dielectric layer and regions of the dielectric layer." Applicant respectfully submits that the proposed combination of the EP&P ad ESL references fails to disclose or suggest this claim element. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-6 and 21-23 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and are believed to be similarly allowable.

D. New Claims

Claims 21-30 are added by the instant amendment. As discussed above, claims 21-23 depend from claim 1, and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons set forth above regarding claim 1.

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner objected to claims 2-6 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated claims 2-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By the instant amendment, applicant has rewritten claim 2 in independent form as claim 24, including all the limitations of claim 1 as it stood prior to the instant amendment. Claims 25-28 depend from claim 24. By the instant amendment, applicant has also rewritten claims 5 and 6 in independent form as claims 29 and 30,

respectively, including all the limitations of claim 1 as it stood prior to the instant amendment. No new matter has been added.

E. Conclusion

Since the cited prior art relied on to the reject the claims of the subject application fails to anticipate or render obvious the present invention as recited in the pending claims, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-6 and 21-30 are now in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable examination of this application is earnestly solicited, and an early and favorable further action upon all pending claims is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

LEE & MORSE, P.C.

Date: July 28, 2005



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**PETITION and
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CHARGE AUTHORIZATION**

This document and any concurrently filed papers are believed to be timely. Should any extension of the term be required, applicant hereby petitions the Director for such extension and requests that any applicable petition fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

If fee payment is enclosed, this amount is believed to be correct. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

Any additional fee(s) necessary to effect the proper and timely filing of the accompanying-papers may also be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.